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Attorney's Docket: 2000DE135
Serial No.: 10/004,601
Art Unit: 1756

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1) (Currently Amended) A method for coloring a composition comprising the steps of homogeneously incorporating spherically shaped wax-coated pigment granules into a binder resin, wherein the wax coated pigment granules have a particle size of between 0.05 and 5 mm and a wax content of from 1 to 50% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules to form a mixture, grinding the mixture and classifying the mixture to give a colored composition, wherein the wax coated pigment particles comprise an organic pigment, and wherein the organic pigment is an azo pigment or a polycyclic pigment, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of electrophotographic toners, and electrophotographic developers, ~~powder coating materials, inkjet inks, electret materials and color filters.~~

2) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules have a wax content of from 5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.

3) (Cancelled) .

4) (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~3~~1, wherein the polycyclic pigment is selected from the group consisting of an isoindolinone, isoindoline, anthanthrone, thioindigo, quinophthalone, anthraquinone, dioxazine, phthalocyanine, quinacridone, perylene, perinone, thiazineindigo, diketopyrrolopyrrole and azomethine pigment.

5) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of natural wax, modified natural wax, semisynthetic wax, fully synthetic wax, amide wax, chlorinated or fluorinated

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polyolefin wax, thermoplastic polyester resin, epoxy resin, styrene-acrylate copolymer resin, styrene-butadiene copolymer resin and cycloolefin copolymer resin.

6) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fully synthetic wax is a polyolefin wax, a cycloolefin copolymer wax or a polyethylene glycol wax.

7) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polyolefin wax is a polyolefin wax containing polar groups which has been formed by subsequent oxidation of the polyolefin wax, by graft reaction with monomers containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups, or by copolymerization of an olefin and a monomer containing carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, carboxylic anhydride or hydroxyl groups.

8) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 60 and 180°C.

9) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are spray dried.

10) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules further comprise a charge control agent selected from the group consisting of triphenylmethanes; ammonium and immonium compounds; iminium compounds; fluorinated ammonium compounds and fluorinated immonium compounds; biscationic acid amides; polymeric ammonium compounds; diallylammonium compounds; aryl sulfide derivatives; phenol derivatives; phosphonium compounds and fluorinated phosphonium compounds; salt-like structured silicates; calix(n)arenes; resorcinols; cyclically linked oligosaccharides, interpolyelectrolyte complexes; polyester salts; metal complex compounds; boron complexes of 1,2-dihydroxyaromatics, 1,2-dihydroxyaliphatics or 2-hydroxy-1-carboxyaromatics; benzimidazolones; azines, thiazines, and oxazines.

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11) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the charge control agent is present in the coated pigment granules in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the overall weight of the coated pigment granules.

12) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic toners are selected from the group consisting of liquid toners and powder toners.

13) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the overall weight of the composition.

14) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are in the form of a masterbatch.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a dropping point of between 80 and 140°C.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coated pigment granules are used in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, based on the overall weight of the composition.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the homogeneously incorporating step further comprises kneading the wax coated pigment granules into the binder resin.

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19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the homogeneously incorporating step further comprises extruding the binder resin and the wax coated pigment granules.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the homogeneously incorporating step further comprises adding the coated pigment granules to the binder resin during polymerization of the binder resin.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the the electrophotographic toners are selected from the group consisting of liquid toners in high-boiling inert solvents and electrocoagulation toners on an aqueous basis.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the the electrophotographic toner is a dry toner

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